(b) whether it is a fact that natural gas worth several crores of rupees is at present being burnt as waste at the Bombay High and Madras;

(c) whether Government have under consideration a proposal to lay a net work of gas pipeline linking the natural gas bases on the Krishna-Godavari basin, Gujarat, Bombay High and other areas to augment the supply of oil and natural gas in the country.

(d) whether Government have prepared any blue prints and the estimates of the cost likely to be incurred in setting up a national gas grid; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PEROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (e) The national gas grid is a part of the long-term perspective plan for the development and utilisation of natural gas. Its implementation will depend on the establishment of adequate reserves of gas and availability of financial resources for its production and utilisation. Exploration is under way for discovering oil and gas reserves.

No Gas is being flared in Madras. In Bombay High during 1985-86 about 40 per cent of gas produced was flared and during 1986-87 this came down to about 24 per cent.

Price control on Drugs

*14. SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to decontrol the prices of certain drugs which are being produced by a number of manufacturers in the country; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the Expert Committee on essential drugs has been assigned the function of giving hearings to consumer bodies, medical professionals and individuals in regard to drug prices and allied matters?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) The details are contained in the booklet "Measures for Rationalisation, quality control and Growth of Pharmaceutical Industry in India", copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

(b) An Expert Committee has been constituted to draw up the list of drugs which would form Category II. The Committee will on its descretion consult representative Associations and bodies.

Spreaders project of Neyveli Lignite Corporation

*15. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what target date, if any, has been fixed by Neyveli Lignite Corporation to complete the Spreaders projects of its Second Mine expansion programme;

(b) by when it is likely to be completed;

(c) whether any precautions have been taken to ensure that only reliable equipment is imported; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) The two 20000 T/Hr. spreaders of the second mine expansion project of Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd. are scheduled to be commissioned by 10-4-1989 and 10-8-1989 respectively.

(c) and (d) To ensure the reliability of the equipment, quality assurance has been obtained from the supplier that the structural designs would be examined by NLC's Consultant and modifications, if any, suggested by the Consultant would be carried out by the supplier free of cost.

Complaints received by the Election Commission of India during recent elections

*16. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number and nature of complaints relating to elections and bye-elections held in various States on March 23, 1987 received by the Election Commission of India and by Chief Electoral Officers in various States;

(b) the steps taken in response to each complaint; and

(c) the steps being formulated to avoid all such complaints in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) These details are still under compilation by the Election Commission in consultation with the Chief Electoral Officers of the concerned States.

(b) and (c) These will arise only after the compilation referred to above is completed and analysed.

Converting petrol fuel car into compressed natural gas car

*17. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the O.N.G.C. has made any further progress on developing the technology for converting petrol fuelled car into compressed natural gas car and whether any tests by official agencies have been carried out;

(b) whether the technology will be made available for commercial production in the field of automobiles; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (c) ONGC have converted one gasoline and one diesel vehicle to enable them to run on natural gas by importing kits. ONGC are planning to convert ten vehicles each of their fleet and of Gujarat State Transport Corporation to run on natural gas. This is a pilot project for testing the suitability of compressed natural gas in Indian conditions and examining its feasibility.

Production of essential drugs

*18. SHRI V. RAMANATHAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the urgent need for widening the distribution pattern of drugs in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the new drug policy does not make it obligatory on the drug manufacturing industry to produce essential drugs; and

(c) what steps have been or are proposed to be taken to produce more essential and life-saving drugs at a reasonable cost?

THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (c) In consonance with the Government's policy of ensuring Health for all by the year 2000 A.D., Government have announced in December, 1986 certain "Measures for Rationalisation, Quality